

Ethical Perspectives on Organ and Tissue Donation

GOT
ETHICS?

Ethical Considerations

- There are many ethical issues that are raised when discussing organ and tissue donation and transplantation
- EX. Should a dying person be able to buy an organ from a willing living donor?



Ethical Considerations

- Should limits be placed on the amount of tax dollars that go toward keeping a sick patient alive?
- Should it be presumed that everyone is an organ donor unless her or she formally drops out of the donor pool?



The Buying and Selling of Organs

- The buying and selling of organs is illegal in Canada
- Donation of organs and tissues in Ontario is legally governed by the *Trillium Gift of Life Network Act*



The Buying and Selling of Organs

- This act sets out the conditions under which both living donations and deceased donations are legally allowed
- In both cases it requires explicit consent before organs can be removed and used for transplantation



The Buying and Selling of Organs

- A person in need of a kidney transplant may not legally buy a kidney
- A person in financial need may not legally sell one of his/her kidneys



- This legislation makes the acquisition of transplantable organs and tissue a matter of voluntary, intentional gift-giving of generosity to others
- In other countries buying and selling organs is allowed



Kosovo



Kosovo

- Kosovo is known for human trafficking and organ harvesting.
- In 1999 after the Kosovo war, new evidence claims that the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) abducted 400 Kosovo residents, mostly Serbs, and illegally harvested their organs before killed them.



Mozambique



- Here the most common organ for sale is the human kidney, mainly used in transplants however there are a few cases involving witchcraft use.

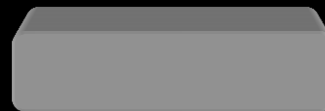


Isreal



Isreal

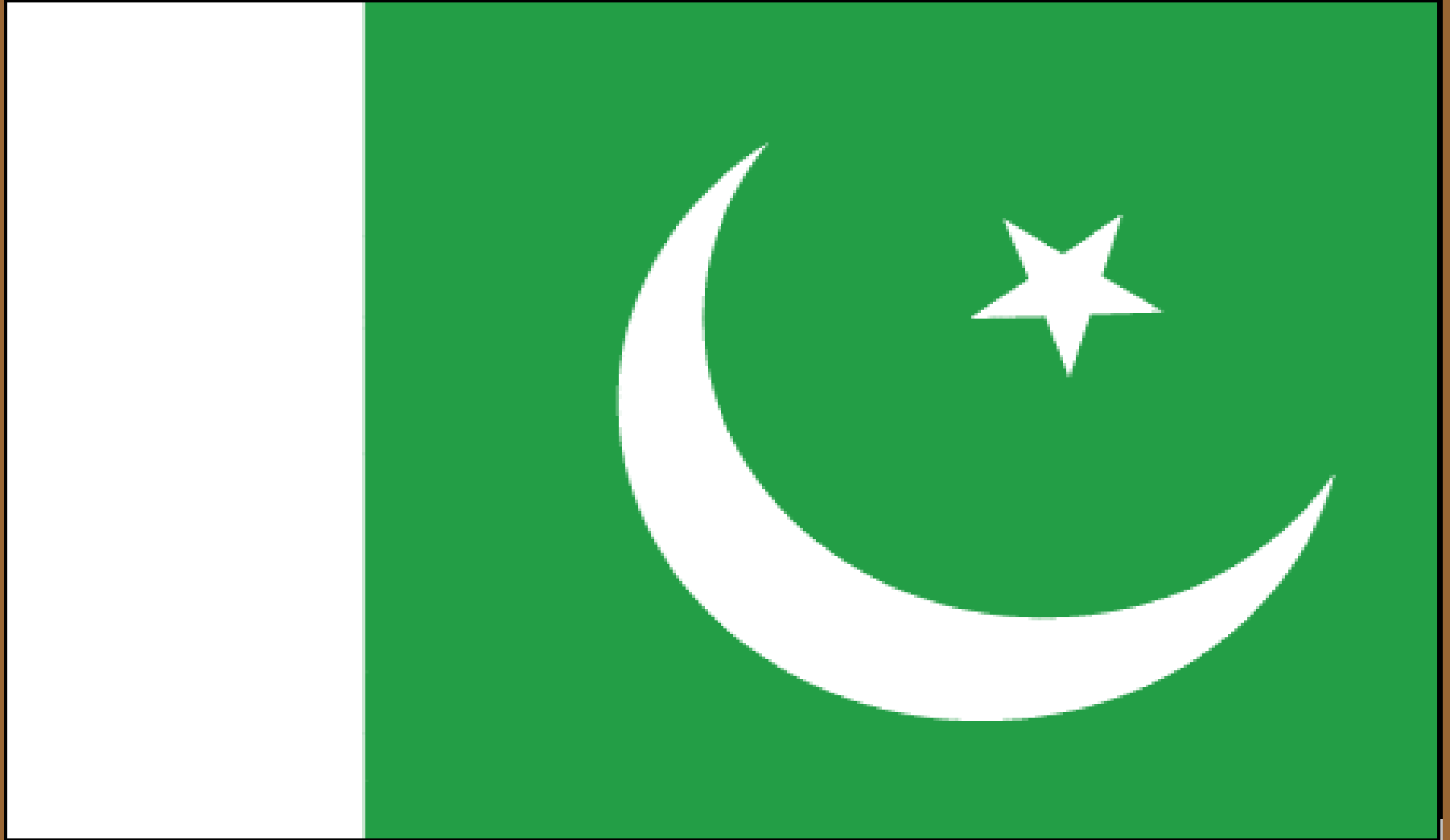
- In some cases these criminals are stealing organs and leaving their donors with nothing, or they are paying very little (\$2,000) for a kidney while they sell them to buyers for at least 10-20 times the amount



India

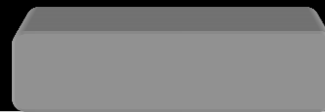


Pakistan



Pakistan

- The only valuable assets these Pakistanis have are their kidneys which have been priced at around \$3,000.



Egypt



Egypt

- Egypt has no current laws to prevent organ harvesters
- There's been 500 unlicensed kidney transplant reported each year but evidence indicates that this figure is generous.



China



China

- China actually condones organ harvesting
- If you're in dying need for a kidney, fly to a hospital in China where you lay in bed and wait for your kidney to arrive; fresh and ready for surgery.



China

- People are paying anywhere from \$10,000 to \$65,000 for a kidney.
- In many cases executed prisoners organs have been taken without consent.



Moldova

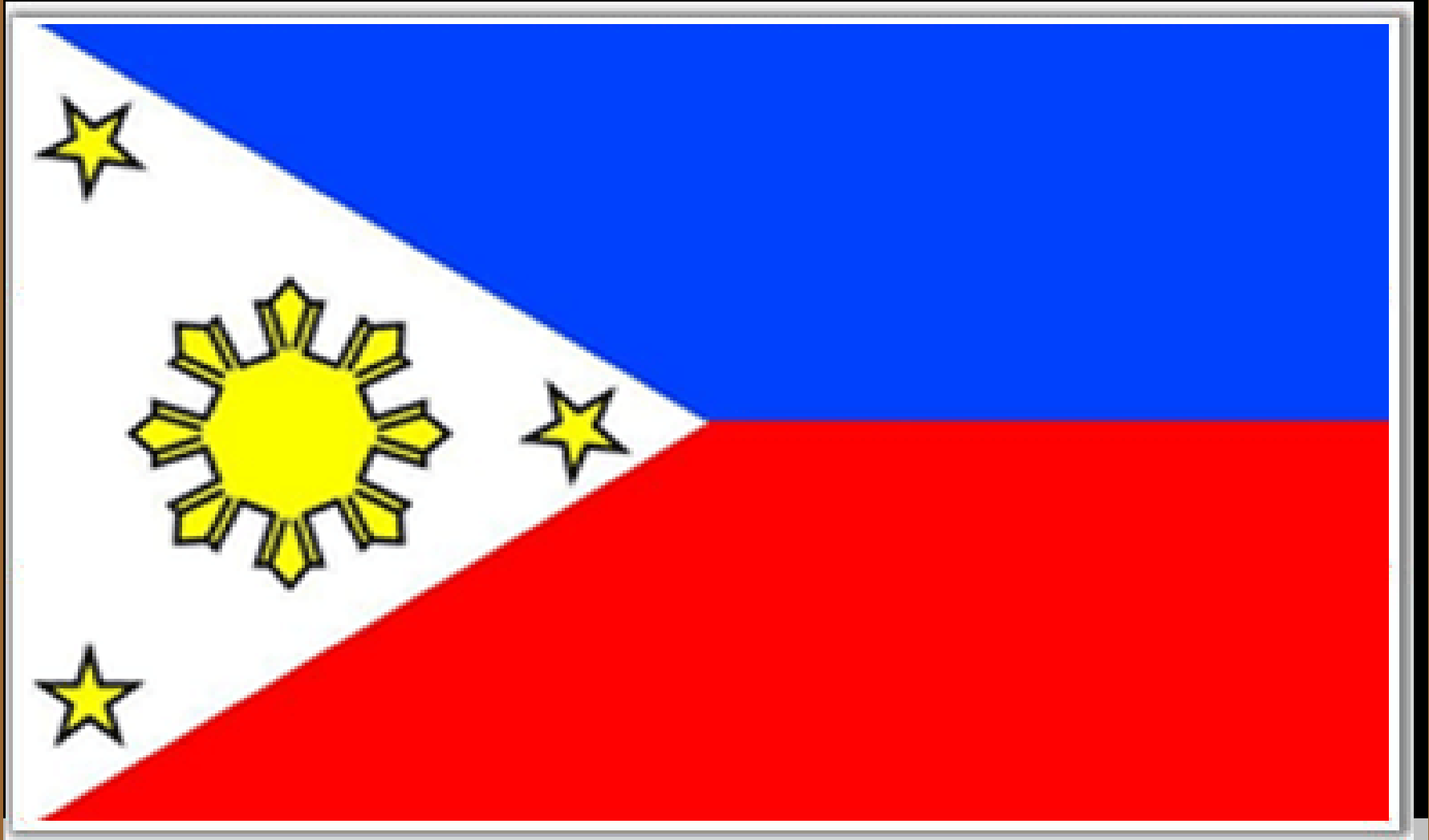


Moldova

- It is believed that the government is directly involved with the trade even after the government has issued a ban.
- Many innocent victims have been murdered for their kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, and small bowel; by gangs. It is also reported that 10% of all kidney donated worldwide originate from Moldova.



The Phillipines



The Philippines

- Legal to sell organs until 2008



Iran



Iran

- In Iran the practice of selling one's kidney for profit is legal
- Iran currently has no wait lists for Kidney transplantation
- The amounts paid to the donor vary in Iran but the average figures are \$3000–\$5000



Problems

- People who make the desperate decision to sell an organ often face post-surgery complications with no medical care
- Lose the money they were promised

